

of Directors of the Friends of Seniors for 4 years. He also was a co-founder and member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee for 10 years, and served on the West Springfield Veterans Council for 2 years. Always staying involved in politics, Dr. Conlin served 30 years on the Republican Town Committee.

Dr. Conlin is a citizen of Springfield that we are extremely proud of and we wish him nothing but the best in his retirement. Dr. Conlin has been a member of St. Thomas Church for 50 years. He has been blessed with his wife the former Barbara Crowley for 26 years, and has one son, Rick, who currently attends Temple University School of Medicine. We wish you the best of luck and good health Dr. Conlin.

TRIBUTE TO MS. CONSTANCE
SCOTT SOLOMON IN HER RE-
TIREMENT

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker. I rise today to celebrate and commemorate the career of my good friend and Chief of Staff of 11 years, Constance Scott Solomon, who has recently retired from 20 years of selfless public service to the people of Colorado.

Originally from Kansas, Ms. Solomon earned a Bachelor of Science in Education and a Master of Arts degree in Special Education from the University of Kansas where she was a proud member of the University of Kansas Chapter of Pi Beta Phi Sorority. After moving to Colorado Springs, Colorado, she began working for U.S. Senator William Armstrong. While serving as his Area Director, she so greatly endeared herself to Coloradans by her dedication, that 20 years later, Senator Armstrong is still thanked for and reminded of Ms. Solomon's help and assistance by those she aided in their time of need.

Following Senator Armstrong's retirement, Ms. Solomon continued to stay active in Colorado politics and joined the staff of newly elected Senator Hank Brown. She rose in the ranks and assumed the position of Area Director for southern Colorado. Again her patience and hard work are remembered years later.

In 1993, I was pleased to have Ms. Solomon join my staff and assume the duties of Chief of Staff. She has worked tirelessly for so many years to assist the people of Colorado's 5th Congressional District through both legislation and case work.

Aside from public service, Ms. Solomon has served as Director of Pre-School for Downs Syndrome Children in Teller County, Colorado; Director and Coordinator for Homebound-Hospital Program in Wyandotte County, Kansas; Director of the University of Kansas Medical Center Hospital's Teenage Parents School; and taught first-grade in Kansas City, Missouri.

Ms. Solomon has dedicated her life and professional careers to assisting and improving the lives of others. Her perseverance and commitment to her fellow man is certainly uncommon and I, as well as the people of southern Colorado will surely miss a truly unique and compassionate friend. I wish Ms. Solomon the best in her retirement and thank her for all her years of service.

SOLILOQUY

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, one of my constituents has written a poem that showcases our Nation's flag in a glorifying manner. Mr. Victor Miller of Madisonville, Tennessee, is the author of a poem titled "Soliloquy." Mr. Miller is the son of Jeanette Miller, who passed this poem along to me. Our country's morale and heritage is strong today because of patriots like Victor Miller. I would like to call "Soliloquy" and its interpretation to the attention of my colleagues and other readers of the RECORD.

INTERPRETATION OF SOLILOQUY

I pray this poetic edification enhances your respect for the flag from Memorial Day through Veterans Day, but more significantly, enamors your appreciations for the risen Son of God. If revered as Old Glory, "God Bless America" will enrich all our personal, domestic & international pursuits exceedingly beyond our imaginations in continual abundance if, "In God We Trust." The Lord in the USA is a bipartisan, consuming Spirit of Holiness & Power! In Christ, "Thanks be unto God who always causes us to triumph" (2 Cor. 2:14).

"Imagine as a flag (Christ) on all folks (souls) passing by with edifying waves (love) influencing (redeeming) their lives."

The essence of duty to God & country He epitomized when his ascension secured for all, Independence! In Christ are "opportunities, honor, recognition, patriotism & liberated freedoms." We're told to "stand fast in the liberty in which Christ has made us free" (Gal. 5:1). With Jesus, we're more than winners, we're "conquerors" (Rom. 8:37). The USA thrives prestigiously, powerfully & prosperously because of our humility in embracing the risen Intercessor for all humanity. His triumphant valor extends to whosoever will. "The Glory in your stripes" belongs exclusively to Jesus Christ. May we forever abstain from worshipping entombed doctrines because if we forsake his sovereignty he will abandon his favor upon the USA. He tells us in his word, "No greater sacrifice exists than to give ones' life for a friend" (John 15:13). Emulating this virtue honors our Savior & rewards us blessings. Our allegiance he is worthy of, as too our "tribute" & service. Let's pray America "valiantly" & steadfastly adheres to his "esteemed" righteousness so our liberties are preserved. "The Lord is that Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty" (2 Cor. 3:17). The colonists were wise in understanding & adopting our Constitution upon biblical integrity. Indigenous to our country it is not but we have progressively strengthened since its inception as a nation because of their keen & humble foresight in acknowledging & incorporating in our executive, legislative & judicial structures his preeminence. Soliloquy was penned in Luray, Virginia in April 1999. I worked for the Shenandoah National Park. On this particular morning while walking to the car I heard the vigorous, insistent "waving" of Old Glory in the blustery air. The owners of the Cardinal Inn always flew a large flag from their rock garden. As I turned to "observe" the Holy Spirit spoke:

I am your Leader, your Warrior, your Friend & Victor. You are adopted into the Almighty Army of God."

America owns patriotism as a majority but is loyalty void of Christ efficacious or self-promoting? Most citizens defend the sanctity of their flag tenaciously when affronted by another. Almost universally, it flies proudly from homes, schools, parks, libraries, cemeteries, vehicles, courts, businesses & even dons our clothing. It is a rallying, focal point of inspiration in times of crisis, mourning & festivities: Higher than all other flags, it "reigns!" Holidays confirm our gratitude for the military dives spent & lost defending its cause of unanimous liberation around the globe against oppression & persecution. Membership in our armed forces always begins at conscription with a sworn vow of allegiance. Patriotism isn't predicated on military service but whenever iniquitous aggression asserts itself against integrity. "When our cause is just...In God is our trust!" is how Francis Scott Key so zealously in 1814 proclaimed. Honest defense of righteous liberties is not immune to costs but "abiding in the shadow of the Almighty" (Ps.91) secures for all patriots ultimate victory. Jesus is not envious or jealous of anything, except his glory. He is however, deserving & desirous of greater, adulation & duty. May Soliloquy serve all of God's children with victorious knowledge & hope from his Holy Spirit so we continue shining in the world as a beacon of his omnipotent Love, just as a "rushing mighty wind" beautifies Old Glory!

SOLILOQUY

Imagine as a flag
on all folks passing by
with edifying waves
influencing their lives!

A patriotic stance
of opportunities
advocating freedoms
by land, the air & sea.

Esteemed a lofty reign
& honored to belong
all would offer tributes
in oaths, salute or songs!
Recognition could abound
for victories secured
defending liberties
despite many injured.

In each of fifty stars
& elsewhere when observed
the glory in your stripes
would valiantly be served!

IN MEMORY OF BORDER PATROL
AGENTS

HON. DARRELL E. ISSA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of two Border Patrol Agents, Theodore L. Newton, Jr. and George P. Azrak, who were killed in the line of duty.

Theodore Newton and George Azrak were Border Patrol Agents stationed at the interior checkpoint in Temecula, California. On the evening of June 17, 1967, Agents Newton and Azrak were operating a rural checkpoint on Highway 79, approximately 30 miles south of Temecula. Agent Newton, 26 years old and married with two children, had been with the Border Patrol for a little over a year, while Agent Azrak, 21 years old, who was shadowing Agent Newton, hadn't even begun training at the academy. During their shift, they stopped an old military ambulance carrying two men when they discovered a shipment of more than 800 pounds of marijuana. As they

were about to arrest the two men, two more men pulled up from behind and held the agents at gunpoint. They were kidnapped and subsequently murdered by these drug-traffickers in an abandoned shack near the checkpoint.

Upon hearing about the kidnapping, nearly 400 law enforcement officers participated in the search for the missing agents in one of the largest manhunts in Southern California. Eventually, the bodies were found, and all four of the men involved in the crime were later arrested. Two of the men convicted of murder were sentenced to life in prison.

In honor of these two agents, the Commissioner of the Border Patrol presents annually the Newton-Azrak Award to the agent that provides services or accomplishments reflecting unusual courage or bravery in the line of duty. This is the highest award for valor and bravery in the Border Patrol.

This country lost two dedicated law enforcement officers 37 years ago. The deaths of Agent Newton and Agent Azrak are a lasting reminder of the perils our law enforcement officers face each and every day while protecting our nation. I am grateful for their service and dedication to this great nation.

I thank the Speaker for the opportunity to honor the anniversary of the passing of Agents Theodore Newton and George Azrak and recognize the loss suffered by their families. I would also like to recognize all the brave men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol and their family members who, like our military families, have loved ones putting their lives at risk for our security.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MYRON DUKES, LAUREN DUKES, CHRISTOPHER DUKES, AND JAUNTRICE DEADMON

HON. BOBBY L. RUSH

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great sorrow and sadness to mourn the loss of Myron Dukes, Lauren Dukes, Christopher Dukes and Jauntrice Deadmon, who died yesterday at the Fort Worth Water Gardens while attending the National Baptist Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. This is a profound loss for the Chicago community.

Mr. Myron Dukes, his 8-yr. old daughter Lauren, his 13-yr. old son Christopher, and 11 yr. old Jauntrice, were all members of the Antioch Baptist Church, located in the Englewood community that I represent, the First Congressional District of Illinois.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Dukes did what any father would have done: try and save his children from drowning in a deep swirling pool. He made the ultimate sacrifice for his heroic efforts with his life. As we approach Fathers Day, I ask that this Congress and the entire nation join the members of the Antioch Baptist Church in mourning the passing of this loving family. The City of Chicago and the world pray that God will give all the family members strength to endure this horrific tragedy in the coming days, and to know that they lived their lives in the service of our God.

CLEARWATER NEIGHBORHOOD HOUSING SERVICES TURNS BROWNSFIELDS SITE INTO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to bring to my attention a creative project by the Clearwater, Florida Neighborhood Housing Services which was turned an abandoned and polluted junkyard into an affordable housing site.

This is the type of innovative program that can solve two problems for a local community. First, it cleans up an environmentally dangerous brownfields site and second it provides a source of much needed affordable housing. Through a combined effort between Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, the city of Clearwater, and the city's Economic Development Department, an 11-year-old junkyard is now the site of two single-family homes.

Mr. Speaker, following my remarks, I will include a story from the June 15, 2004 edition of The Petersburg Times which provides more details about this project with the hope that other cities around the country will use it as a model to clean up abandoned properties and fulfill the dream of homeownership for some fortunate families.

[From the St. Petersburg Times, June 15, 2004]

VISION, TOIL TURN 'JUNKYARD' INTO NEW HOMES

(By Lorri Helfand)

CLEARWATER.—A rusted bus was parked on the lot. Scrap wood, tires, auto parts and metal drums were heaped all around. Pesticides, waste oil and hazardous chemicals were stockpiled there, too.

It was a far cry from the American dream. But, over the course of a decade, Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, the city and environmental protection agencies cleaned up the junkyard and transformed it into a couple of cozy stucco homes with manicured lawns.

The houses in the North Greenwood neighborhood are the first single-family homes built on a brownfields site in the city of Clearwater. Brownfields sites are basically abandoned properties where environmental contamination or potential contamination complicate redevelopment efforts.

"It was a junkyard. I'm happy we're seeing contamination going out and families coming in," said Isay Gulley, president and chief executive of Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services, as she prepared to tour one of the new homes for the first time.

Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services is a nonprofit organization that provides housing and economic development services in Pinellas, Pasco and Hillsborough counties. North and South Greenwood are its two target communities.

One house has been sold already to a 38-year-old single mother. The woman, who works as a nursing assistant, asked that she not be identified. But she said that it's a blessing to be able to progress this far and have a home.

A prospective buyer is interested in the other, which will sell for about \$139,000, though nothing has been completed, said Jennifer Smethers, home ownership center manager for Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services.

The buyer will be eligible for up to \$30,000 in down payment assistance from the city, which will not require repayment as long as the owner resides in the home, Smethers said. The buyer also will be eligible for an \$8,000 low-interest loan from Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services.

The three-bedroom, two-bath house is about 1,300 square feet and has a two-car garage. Beige tile lines the foyer and deep sand-colored carpet covers the floors throughout the home. Like all of the projects Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services develops, both houses have refrigerators, dishwashers and stoves.

Neighbor Rhonda Cole, 55, came by to check out the homes, which were showcased as part of National NeighborWorks Week, an event that mobilizes community awareness of the need for affordable housing and neighborhood revitalization efforts. "I think this is wonderful. I think our neighborhood is finally turning around. It's going to be a place where anybody would want to live," she said.

Problems on the site date back to 1993, when it became a junkyard. The city eventually declared a house and a two-story storage building on the lot as unsafe. The home was demolished in 1996. But when demolition began on the storage facility, workers found a mysterious liquid leaking from beneath the garage door. Petroleum, metals, contaminated soils and an underground storage tank with waste oil had to be removed so demolition could continue.

The city forgave about \$38,000 in liens that accumulated with the demolition and efforts to rid the property of hazardous waste on the condition that the owner, Larry Bunting, donate the property to Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services.

The city's Economic Development Department, through the City Brownfield program, provided about \$150,000 in state brownfields monies for environmental assessment and cleanup of the site.

Ground was broken on one of the homes last fall. Construction on the second began a few months later. Both were completed by spring.

Gulley said her nonprofit organization has three goals: housing assistance, economic development and educational opportunities.

The organization has built about 200 affordable houses for low- and moderate-income families within the city since 1991.

"Please know we have accomplished many things but we have a long way to go," Gulley told government officials, business leaders and community members at an event last week to showcase the homes.

Clearwater Neighborhood Housing Services is currently planning a small residential subdivision on Tangerine St. and plans to transform a neighborhood bar into a Head Start day care center, ice cream parlor and professional offices, Gulley said.

SUPPORT OF PASSAGE OF H.R. 4323 AND H. CON. RES. 260

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 17, 2004

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of two bills enacted by the House that will go a long way to helping our troops and providing some comfort and peace of mind to their families.

I was pleased to vote for H.R. 4323, which helps the Department of Defense speed up the delivery of critically important equipment